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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,386	01/15/2004	Memphis-Zhihong Yin	200312164-1	5428

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HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,386

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/15/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/15/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9, 11-17 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glad (US PN 6863554 B1).

With respect to claim 1, Glad teaches (Fig. 1) a computer system (8), comprising a sidewall (not labeled) having an aperture (not labeled) therethrough and a multiple-connector apparatus (151, embodiment in Figs. 6 & 7, for example) disposed to pass at least partially through the aperture (not labeled), able to be positioned in a retracted position to conceal at least one of the connectors (154) inside the computer system (8) and in an extended position in which at least one of the connectors (154) is accessible outside of the computer system (8).

With respect to claim 2, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a push-push mechanism (158) facilitating movement of the multiple-connector apparatus (151).

With respect to claim 3, Glad teaches (Fig. 1) a computer system (8) comprising a housing (not labeled) having a top side (not labeled) and a sidewall (not labeled) and

a port connector apparatus (151, Fig. 6,7), having a plurality of port connectors (154) arranged in a plane substantially parallel to the top side and adapted to receive mating connectors (10) in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall (not labeled).

With respect to claim 4, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the sidewall (not labeled) has an aperture (not labeled) and the port connector apparatus (151) includes an extension/retraction mechanism (158) that enables the port connector apparatus (151) to be extended and retracted through the aperture (not labeled).

With respect to claim 5, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a housing (not labeled) means having an aperture (not labeled) and a means for changing a total number of port connectors (154) exposed outside of the housing means and wherein the changing means enables a plurality of the port connectors (154) to move back and forth through the aperture (not labeled).

With respect to claim 6, Glad teaches (Fig. 6) a means for holding the port connectors (154) in a retracted position relative to the housing (not labeled) and a means for releasing the port connectors (154) from the retracted position relative to the housing.

With respect to claim 7, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a housing (not labeled) and a connector tray (151) connected to the housing (not labeled) and having a plurality of

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port connectors (154) and wherein more port connectors (154) are accessible when the connector tray (151) is extended at least partially outside the housing than when the tray (151) is retracted within the housing.

With respect to claim 8, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a plurality of port connectors (154) disposed in a connector tray (151) and an extension/retraction mechanism (158) that locks the connector tray (151) in a retracted position until released therefrom and enables the released connector tray (151) to extend to an extended position.

With respect to claim 9, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the extension/retraction mechanism (158) comprises a push-push mechanism.

Regarding the method claims 11-13, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Glad. Glad disclosed (fig. 6,7) a computer system (8) with a multiple-connector tray (151) in a retracted position relative to a housing of the computer system, the multiple-connector tray (151) having at least one connector (154) inaccessible in the retracted position and extending the multiple-connector tray (151) to an extended position relative to the housing in which the connector (154) is accessible, wherein the multiple-connector tray (151) is released from the retracted position, wherein the multiple-connector tray (151) is retracted back to the retracted position.

With respect to claim 14, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) a retractable multiple-connector apparatus (131) or multiple-connector apparatus (181, Fig. 10,11).

With respect to claim 15, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (131) is integrated with housing (130).

With respect to claim 16, the multiple-connector apparatus retracts entirely into the computer system (8).

With respect to claim 17, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) a housing (130) wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (131) retracts within the housing (not labeled) to a position at which a remote side of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing.

With respect to claim 20, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the retractable multiple-connector apparatus further comprises a plurality of connectors (154) accessible from a side away from the housing (not labeled) of the computer system (8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10,18 &19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glad (US PN 6863554 B1).

With respect to claim 10, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) an extension/retraction mechanism (158).

Glad teaches in an alternate embodiment (Fig. 19C) a button (316) that causes the release of a retractable block (320), stored with a communications card, from a retracted position (col. 18, lines 33-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a button in the embodiment of Fig. 19c over the retractable release mechanism of the embodiment of Fig. 6,7, in order to provide automatic release of a multiple connector apparatus from a retracted position. The replacement of one release mechanism for an alternate equivalent release mechanism would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

With respect to claim 18, Glad teaches (Fig. 10,11) a housing (180) and the retractable multiple-connector apparatus that comprises a portion (186) that pivots relative to the housing upon being extended from the housing (180) (col. 12, lines 22-

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28).

With respect to claim 19, Glad teaches (Fig. 10,11) the portion (186) of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus that pivots to an extended rather than a vertical position, relative to the housing (not labeled).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the pivot structure of Glad in which the pivot is in a vertical position, in order to allow an alternate insertion point for the plug. Glad further explains that one skilled in the art can arrive at numerous structures equivalent to those taught in figs. 10,11 (col. 12, lines 32-35).

Conclusion

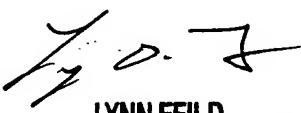
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Agata et al. (US PN 6064566), Branch et al. (US 2002/0167793 A1), Laity (US PN 6488542 B2), Nagel (US PN 6173405 B1), Ohnishi et al. (US PN 6525932 B1), Laity (US PN 5984731), Laity et al. (US PN 6183307 B1), Postman et al. (US PN 6536670 B1), Klatt et al. (US PN 6097605) & Onoda et al. (US PN 5982624) show the general state of the art regarding connectors in computer housing configurations.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/8/05
IDW


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800